

More and more Hongkongers find themselves facing an agonizing decision: Can they remain in the city they love or must they flee elsewhere if they want their children to grow up free?

As I have said often, every nation that cares about democracy and stability has a stake in ensuring that Beijing's actions in Hong Kong carry consequences. I encourage the administration to use the tools Congress has given it and to work with like-minded nations to impose those costs, but punishing the PRC cannot be our only priority. We also need to actively help the people of Hong Kong.

Led by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the United Kingdom says they are preparing to offer visas to potentially millions of Hongkongers. In addition to funding democracy programming and supporting legal assistance, we must also consider ways to welcome Hongkongers and other Chinese dissidents to America.

Chinese Americans have formed part of the backbone of our Nation for about two centuries. Against headwinds of racial prejudice, Chinese immigrants literally helped build modern America as we know it. Generations of Chinese Americans have enriched our society and fueled our economic prosperity. Not surprisingly, I am particularly partial to the Secretary of Transportation, whose parents fled Communist rule. She has served her country across four Presidential administrations, including as the first Chinese American to ever serve in a President's Cabinet.

If some of the same brave Hongkongers who have stood up for liberty waving our American flag and singing our American national anthem would like to come here and join us, we should welcome them warmly.

Of course, this Senate is not only acting with respect to China. Earlier this year, at my urging, the Senate enacted the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, and this week, the administration is using these tools to impose painful new sanctions on the brutal regime of Bashar Assad.

With the help of Russian airpower, Iranian advisers, and manpower from Hezbollah terrorists, Assad has recaptured military control of most of the territory he had lost during 9 years of civil war, but he has effectively destroyed his own country in an effort to save his regime.

Assad faces renewed protests across the country, infighting within his regime and family, and a Syrian economy that is in free fall. Because of this Congress and this administration, the cashflow to these butchers is going to shrink, and the price that leaders and businessmen in Tehran, Beirut, Cairo, Moscow, and Beijing will have to pay to do business with the regime will grow.

These new steps will help us achieve our objective: creating leverage for diplomats and our partners on the ground to negotiate a political solution and finally end the war. To maintain this

pressure, we should keep our limited physical presence in Syria. We should work to bring our NATO ally Turkey back onto the right side, and we should preserve the deterrence that President Trump has rebuilt against Iran, to keep checking their influence in Syria and throughout the Middle East.

#### NOMINATION OF JUSTIN REED WALKER

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on one final matter, later today, the Senate will confirm Judge Justin Walker of Kentucky to join the DC Circuit Court of Appeals.

Now, as I have noted in just the last several weeks, Judge Walker has given the Senate several new reasons to support his nomination to the second most important Federal bench.

In testimony before our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, he demonstrated an impressive grasp of legal precedent. At his current post as district judge for the Western District of Kentucky, he eloquently applied this understanding to uphold Americans' religious liberty, and he earned the approval of the American Bar Association with a rating of "well-qualified."

But, of course, Judge Walker's credentials were already sterling. Long before this nominee began practicing and then applying the law, he was collecting plaudits for his excellence at studying it.

Judge Walker, as I mentioned before, graduated from Duke University summa cum laude, and Harvard Law School magna cum laude. Those credentials can easily lead someone to an elite law firm in a big city, but instead, it led Judge Walker to clerkships for then-Judge Brett Kavanaugh and then-Justice Anthony Kennedy.

He then went back home to the University of Louisville Law School. He quickly became a star faculty member, producing distinguished scholarship on a wide range of legal issues. Once Judge Walker took his current seat on the bench for the Western District of Kentucky, he wasted no time building an equally strong reputation for the fairness and open-mindedness that Americans deserve from their judges.

In one letter to our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, 100 practicing lawyers from across Kentucky said:

If Judge Walker is confirmed, we could give our clients an assessment of him for which any judge should strive: he is sharp, fair, and will follow the law.

In another letter, 16 different State attorneys general told us:

As someone from outside the Beltway with a commitment to the rule of law, we know that Judge Walker will listen to the arguments of advocates appearing before him, that he will weigh the facts against the law as it is written (and not as he wishes it to be), and that he will fairly decide those cases based upon controlling precedent.

These glowing assessments are not from elite corporate counsel or frequent flyers on the DC Circuit. These

are from men and women across Kentucky and across America who have seen this man work and watched his career.

Republican Presidents have a proud tradition of looking beyond Washington to freshen up the DC Circuit with diverse perspectives from across America. President Nixon thought this crucial court could use the expertise of a Texan and a Minnesotan. President Reagan chose legal minds from Colorado and North Carolina. President Bush 41 chose a South Carolinian, and President Bush 43 a Californian.

So when the Senate confirms Judge Walker to this vacancy, we will not just be promoting a widely admired legal expert and proven judge to a role for which he is obviously qualified, we will also be adding to a time-honored tradition of finding men and women from all across the country to help ensure that this enormously consequential bench here in our Nation's Capital is refreshed with talent from all parts of America.

My fellow Kentuckians and I are sorry to part with this son in the Bluegrass, but mostly we are proud because Judge Walker will be putting his legal brilliance and his exceptional judicial temperament to work not just for his home State but for our entire Nation and in even more consequential ways. I look forward to voting to confirm Judge Justin Walker, and I urge each of my colleagues to do the same.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3985

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3985) to improve and reform policing practices, accountability, and transparency.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Justin Reed Walker, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

## DACA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I cried tears of joy a few minutes ago when I heard the decision of the Supreme Court on DACA. These wonderful DACA kids and their families have a huge burden lifted off their shoulders. They don't have to worry about being deported. They can do their jobs, and I believe—I do believe this—someday, someday soon, they will be American citizens.

I have met so many of these beautiful children and their families. Now, many have grown up. They came to America as little kids, and all they want to be is Americans. They worked hard. I met some of them during the COVID crisis in New York risking their lives to deal with the healthcare crisis we had. I have seen them enlist in the Armed Forces and go to college, some of our best colleges and law schools, and climb that American ladder that has been around for so many years and some people want to rip away.

So this is a wonderful, wonderful day for the DACA kids, for their families, and for the American Dream.

We have always believed in immigration in America. We have had some dark forces oppose it in recent years, but we believe in it. It is part of our soul. Every one of us cares about immigrants, and so many of us are descendants of immigrants. Wow, what a decision.

Let me say this: In these very difficult times, the Supreme Court provided a bright ray of sunshine this week with the decision on Monday preventing discrimination in employment against the LGBTQ community and now with this DACA decision. Frankly, to me, the Court's decision was surprising but welcome. It gives you some faith that the laws and rules and mores of this country can be upheld. Wow, the

decision is amazing. I am so happy for these kids and their families. I feel for them, and I think all of America does. Again, I cannot—who would have thought the Supreme Court would have so many good decisions in one week? Who would have thought it? Wow.

## JUSTICE IN POLICING ACT

Madam President, now let's get to some other very important issues as well.

Two weeks ago, House and Senate Democrats introduced a bill, the Justice in Policing Act, to bring sweeping change to the Nation's police departments. The bill would bring comprehensive and enduring reforms—the most forceful set of changes to policing in decades.

The House Judiciary Committee approved the legislation yesterday, and it will pass the full House next week.

Here in the Senate, Republicans put forward their own proposal yesterday, led by the Senator from South Carolina. We welcome our Republican colleagues to this discussion. It is something they have resisted for so long. But merely writing the bill—any bill—is not good enough at this moment in American history. It is too low a bar.

To simply say “We will write any old bill, and that is good enough” isn't good enough for so many people, many of whom are marching in the streets to get real justice.

We don't need just any bill right now. We need a strong bill. We don't need some bipartisan talks. We need to save Black lives and bring long-overdue reforms to institutions that have resisted them. The harsh fact is that the legislation my Republican friends have put together is far too weak and will be ineffective at rooting out this problem.

The Republican bill does nothing to reform the legal standards that shield police from convictions for violating Americans' constitutional rights. It does nothing on qualified immunity, which shields even police who are guilty of violating civil rights from being sued for civil damages. The Republican bill does nothing to encourage independent investigations of police departments that have patterns and practices that violate the Constitution. The Republican bill does nothing to reform the use of force standard, nothing on racial profiling, nothing on limiting the transfer of military equipment to local police departments.

What the Republican bill does propose does not go far enough. Unlike the Justice in Policing Act, which bans no-knock warrants in Federal drug cases, the Republican bill requires data only on no-knock warrants. Breonna Taylor, a first responder in Louisville, KY, was asleep in her bed when she was killed by police who had a no-knock warrant. More data would not have saved Breonna Taylor's life.

Unlike the Justice in Policing Act, which bans choke holds and other tactics that have killed Black Americans, the Republican bill purports to ban choke holds only by withholding fund-

ing from departments that don't voluntarily ban them themselves—only those choke holds that restrict air flow but not those choke holds that resist blood to flow to the brain—and the ban only applies unless the “use of deadly force” is required. Who determines when the use of deadly force is required? It is usually the police themselves, and courts defer to their judgment.

I don't understand. If you want to ban choke holds and other brutal tactics that have killed Black Americans in police custody, why don't you just ban them?

I like my friend from South Carolina, Senator SCOTT. I know he is trying to do the right thing, but this is not just about doing any bill. This is not about finding the lowest common denominator between the two parties and then moving on. This is about bringing sorely needed change to police departments across the country, stopping the killing of African Americans at the hands of police, and bringing accountability and transparency to police officers and departments that are guilty of misconduct.

Unfortunately, the Republican bill doesn't go nearly far enough on prevention. It doesn't go nearly far enough on transparency and hardly brings even one ounce of accountability, and that matters a great deal. We have to get this right.

If we pass a bill that is ineffective, the killings continue, and police departments resist change, and there is no accountability, the wound in our society will not close. It will widen.

This is not about making an effort and dipping our toes into the waters of reform. This is about solving a problem that is taking the lives of Black Americans.

Let me say that again because it is so important for my colleagues across the aisle to hear. This is not just about making an effort or dipping our toes into the waters of reform. This is about solving a problem that is taking the lives of Black Americans.

If the bill would not have prevented the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Michael Brown, or Eric Garner, if it will not stop future deaths of Black Americans at the hands of the very people who are meant to protect and serve, then it does not represent the change we need now.

As drafted, the Republican bill does not rise to the moment. The Democratic bill, the Justice in Policing Act, does.

## NOMINATION OF JUSTIN REED WALKER

Madam President, of course, while Democrats are glad that Leader MCCONNELL felt the pressure and heeded our call to put policing reform on the floor next week, it will not be before the Republican leader asks us to confirm two more hard rightwing judges to the Federal bench.

Today, the Senate will vote on Justin Walker, a 38-year-old with less than a